Hogarth House,
Paradise Road,
Richmond.

Jan 16. '17

Monday.

Dear Barbara,

Will you come to dinner next Sunday? 2
I have asked Saxon to come.
I am coming to the Omega on
Thursday, to be slightly altered, but
this really a great success. a such a
mercy to creep into ones fur like an
animal.

Please make Saxon keep earlier
hours. He writes to me at 2 in
the morning. It is absolute rain to
the health. I hope you are sensible too —
but how dangerous it must be to live
with a packet of pins in one's mouth,
year in, year out. I am longing
to hear about Kenilworth on Christmas
day, & whether it was as we imagined

it — Or is it really a sinister iniquity?
I can imagine most lurid military
amours taking place under the Elizabethan
ramis.

I heard from Carrington that you
may be able to go to Athenæum in a
fortnight. NYPL We shall like you to be
there — which is more than we
can say of some of our friends.
But I will not be so indiscreet as to
say which. We were divinely
happy there at Christmas; the weather
like spring, & not a soul to be seen.
You must make Jaxon go with you; then
take him to the top of the downs; while
Carrington asks him something about the
man in the moon, you run behind, give him
a shove, & send him rolling to the bottom.
We used to do this with Vanessa, & it
made a new woman of her.

Your aff
V. W.

had been drunk.
I must kick off this, or
raise arrears, &
as you see I am
dwindling like an
infant in arms.

Clare waits
again, &
tells me absent
Maidstone – what
fun to have us
spend a week!
We just found
out, but don't
see how to
manage to
live in 3
at the same
time.
Love to the old
Reprobate, who
might have written
to me.
Yrs V-W.

My dear Barbara,

I am very much excited & moved & bleared by your letter. Maidstone is a great oyster & typhoid centre — that is all I know – But I shall never write to you now — unhappiness was the condition I made, & you never fulfilled it. Now you will be rich; keep a motor I daresay. Anyhow, I shall come & enquire into the matter for myself.

Its you who should write letters. Leonard & I thumbed each pleasure over yours – & the old gentleman Lytton, & then Jaxon taking his chin board out. Are Jaxon's aunts & children also in the bedroom? why has it been kept so dark? Please tell me whether they are the children of the ichthyologist (which means fish something) If so, I have a niche for them in my memory.

Lytton has just gone, & Morgan Forster is just coming, & we go over to Charleston tomorrow, God willing. But oh the weather! One day of fine, then six of wet; rain spitting in the fire; pipes choked; birds found drowned; & my work cut out, merely raising the dahlias from the ground. Chicky Biddicutis Bagenalia is doing very well.

You'll be able to come over & see us from Maidstone. But what will Nicks' work be, & does it lead on, & is it more suitable than what he had? I can't help respelling Gaspingler, Nightly, on Salpeth grounds. Going to see Barbara would have been such a boon on Sunday morning. The Partridges came too. for one night. Carenglen rather bitter against the institution of marriage still; but she is going to paint it down. Tell Saxon with my love, that I am reading the Odyssey. But as Barbara is never quite certain whether this Early English or Norse, my very profound remarks shall wait. Its no good plumming oneself on wraps of learning with You matrons, however — who are rearing families & feeding hens. Will you be able to take part in the Hogarth Press? Violent crises are now taking place. I am starting a coloured paper manufactory this autumn. I enclose our circular — not for you, but for the Danish matron, who might spread our fame among the Scands. I'm sure they don't like to be called Scands, so don't mention it. We have entered village life. Leonard plays tennis at the Rectory, & has raised our reputation tremendously by beating them all. We had the most thanks to dinner to meet Lytton; but the most thanks only talks when drunk, so Lytton has now discovered — unluckily too late. Dora & Charlie & Daphne Sanger have been staying at Southease; Daphne is a stout woman of 16: I thought she was still in the cradle: & I can't talk with ease before virgins. Then Sydney Waterlow came & bathed in the Ouse, which barely covered his thanks — it would have drowned the most thanks completely — unless he

had been Drunk.
I must kick apples, or
raise asters, &
as you see I am
driveling like an
infant in arms.

Please write
again, &
tell me about
Maidstone — what
fun to have to
find a house!
I've just found
one, but don't
see how to
manage to
live in 3
at the same
time.
Love to the old
Reprobate, who
might have written
to me.

Yrs
V.W.

My dear Barbara,

I am very much pleased by
your letter. Maidstone is a great mystery —
But is ah I know — But I had never wish to see you now —
unhappiness was the condition
fulfilled it. Now you with
Janeway. Anyhow, I must
matter for myself.

Yr you who handed
work hilarious over yours — &
Mrs Jaxon talking
Aunts & children also in
been kept in bed? Please
the children still
unmaking) If so, I have a
Lytton has just gone,
coming, & we go over to
writing. But oh the weather!
hen by 7 wet; rain
fuchsias checked; birds
cat out, merely raining
Chicky hideously

moved, & released by
heat upon a typhoid entire —
had never wish to see you now —
Made, & pen never
rich; keeps a motor)
come & existed into the

wrote letter. Leonard & I thought
& the old gentleman Lytton, &
found out. Are Jaxon's
2 why ha it
Please let me whether they are
Polish Turkish means fish
niche for him in my memory.
, & Morgan Forster is just
Charleston tomorrow, food
Thursday. The day of fire,
putting in the fire;
and Stained; & my work
the Dahlias from the ground
Anglia is doing very well.

RICHMOND SURREY

4. 45 PM

17 NOV 17

Miss Barbara Hiles,

Asheham House

Rodmell

Lewes

Sussex

Telephone:
Richmond 496.

Hogarth House,
Paradise Road,
Richmond,
Surrey.

Tuesday,

Dear Barbara,

I'm glad to hear that you're engaged yourselves: I was afraid from Faith's account that the difficulties were rather great. I wonder if you're coming back on Friday (do stay on as long as ever you want to, short as (Christmas) — & if you are whether you would be so very good as to bring us back a little tea. When I was in Lewes one could get it easily at Roberts: 2 lbs: or less would be very welcome. I daresay the Corps: dont allow any. Here we are reduced to our last spoonful, which has hit the servants more than any disaster in the course of the war — We bear up, because we like coffee. We are starting printing in earnest, having just got our paper.

Love to everyone

yrs. V. W

Mr. N. Bagenal

21 Heath Street

Hampstead

London

N.W. 3.

Monks Horse
Rodmell
Lewes.

Dec. 23rd

My dear Barbara

I cannot think why you never write to me. Jacques says you live on the bank of the Severn. Perhaps looking into the water destroys the memory; & you are a wise old witch, much happier than any of us. Well, I hope so. We have just come down here for Christmas, & the sun on the cabbages is a sight. Indeed I think this place has great points over Asheham — Do you find that wherever you live is the best place in the world? Is the Severn better than the Wye? Have you a perfect cottage? Do you do all the work yourself? I hope not. But then when are you coming to see us?

I must tell you we've now turned the dining room at Hogarth into our printing room, so we have a proper spare room; fit for a proper matronly woman — Come soon, or the press will have swamped us. I can't tell you how hard we work. Partridge is immensely energetic, but I regret to say that his hands get very cold, & then, taking a whole box of type, he drops it on the floor. You can imagine the scene — printing to get 8 pages finished — fog — cold — 4 in the afternoon — then this disaster. We shall produce about 6 books in the spring.

I spent a night with Saxon not long ago, at great demand Ka[illegible] — I only mean I went in after dinner. I was immensely impressed by his bachelor apparatus. I think he is the most

masterly man I know. He has complete control over his tea, his coffee, his chess, his books, his cat (she has a cat), Mrs. Nagg, the full moon — when he takes a walk - & friendship. He is nobody, & his affections are entirely pure. That there like an old dirty clothes basket. does he give you that feeling? Carrington has been in London; Gordon Square is like nothing so much as the lions house at the Zoo. One goes from cage to cage. All the animals are dangerous, rather suspicious of each other, & full of fascination & mystery. I'm sometimes too timid to go in, & trail along the pavement, looking in at the windows. Nessa has been painting her woms flesh colour & orange (that's my impression) Angelica has the charm of a beauty already. She always takes off your hat & fusses at in herself. Julian is setting up an intrigue at school — It seems to me very elderly to be writing about children's gossip; but I can't think of anything middleaged. What a bore it is that we're all married - except old Marjorie Strachey who teaches shop assistants & fell down the stairs at debenhams the other day & cracked her behind. Noel Olivier is marrying a Welshman called Jones; & will live in Wales; & as I think you're in the next county, perhaps you'll meet — Oliver & Ray dined with us the other night — & I must say I think its high time — I will not be so indiscreet as to say what I mean. Only she becomes more & more like that very handsome cat of yours that I admired so, the day we came to tea & Nick was wounded. With this hint, I leave the subject. Do you think you would send me a picture post card of your neighbourhood? My private version of you is so wildly romantic that it can't be true. I suppose you do do something besides sit on a high bank under a willow tree braiding your hair while the Severn rushes past in the moonlight?

Barbara, who hasn't time what with scrubbing & washing & attending to Judith to read this long aimless letter, is filled with Horn. But if you want write to me, how am I to know better?

Please write an account of your entire day from dawn to sunset.

Yours affectionately
V.W.

Love to Nick; & thank him for his letter, 3 months ago. I'm going to try liquid manure.